

## NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

May 12, 2003

RE: MDR Tracking #: M2-03-0732-01  
IRO Certificate #: IRO4326

The \_\_\_\_ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) has assigned the above referenced case to \_\_\_\_ for independent review in accordance with TWCC Rule §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

\_\_\_\_ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, relevant medical records, any documents utilized by the parties referenced above in making the adverse determination, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the appeal was reviewed.

The independent review was performed by a \_\_\_\_ physician reviewer who is board certified in orthopedic surgery which is the same specialty as the treating physician. The \_\_\_\_ physician reviewer has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to \_\_\_\_ for independent review. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to this case.

### Clinical History

This patient was at work when he bumped into an object on \_\_\_\_ and noticed pain in the left knee. The patient felt like his knee was giving out. He had previous arthroscopic surgery on his right knee. An MRI of his left knee from 08/09/02 revealed a posterior horn medial meniscal tear, joint effusion, and anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear vs. low-grade strain. The patient then underwent a left knee arthroscopy on 08/22/02 and had a medial meniscectomy, chondroplasty, notchplasty, and shrinkage of the anterior cruciate ligament. He had post-operative physical therapy and rehabilitation. The patient did well until later developing more pain in the affected knee and a limp. A repeat MRI on 11/22/02 of the left knee revealed posterior horn medial meniscal irregularity but unchanged from his pre-operative MRI. Also noted was an anterior cruciate ligament tear and large joint effusion.

### Requested Service(s)

The procedure requested is a left knee arthroscopy with ACL repair and medial meniscectomy.

### Decision

It is determined that a left knee arthroscopy with ACL repair and medial meniscectomy is medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

### Rationale/Basis for Decision

As per the provided documentation, the patient has an intra-articular problem. His symptoms have been there long enough to justify investigation through arthroscopy. His MRI from 11/22/02 revealed posterior horn medial meniscus irregularity, medial femoral condyle contusion, joint effusion, and ACL tear. Due to documented physical exams demonstrating internal derangement and ACL insufficiency along with the patient's continuing symptoms, a left knee arthroscopy with repair of any pathological condition found is warranted. Therefore, a left knee arthroscopy with ACL repair and medial meniscectomy is medically necessary.

This decision by the IRO is deemed to be a TWCC decision and order.

## YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of the decision and has a right to request a hearing.

**If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision** a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **10** (10) days of your receipt of this decision (20 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5 (c)).

**If disputing other prospective medical necessity (preauthorization) decisions** a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin Code 148.3).

This Decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed (28 Tex. Admin Code 102.4(h) or 102.5(d)). A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, P.O. Box 40669, Austin, Texas, 78704-0012. **A copy of this decision should be attached to the request.**

The party appealing the decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute (Commission Rule 133.308 (t)(2)).

Sincerely,

In accordance with Commission Rule 102.4 (h), I hereby verify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) Decision was sent to the carrier, the requestor and claimant via facsimile or U.S. Postal Service from the office of the IRO on this 12 <sup>th</sup> day of May 2003.
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